

Appln. No.: 09/820,401
Amendment Dated March 10, 2004.
Reply to Office Action of December 11, 2003

MATP-601US

Remarks/Arguments:

Claims 1-20 are pending in the above-identified application.

Claim 1 was objected to for an informality. This informality is corrected in the amended claim 1.

Claims 1, 2, 4, 16, 17 and 19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 (e) as being anticipated by Lange et al. This ground for rejection is overcome by the amendments to claims 1 and 16. In particular, Lange et al. do not disclose or suggest, "... filtering the audio signals by using a spectral subtraction method to extract the speech portion;" as set forth in claim 1 or, "...a spectral subtraction speech filter which identifies portions of the audio signals that include speech components and separates the identified speech component signals from the audio signals;" as set forth in claim 11.

Basis for these amendments may be found in the specification at paragraph [0032].

The Lange et al. application concerns a method and system for providing automated captioning for AV signals. Lange discloses a method for displaying text information corresponding to a speech portion of audio signals of a television program as a closed caption on a video display device. The method decodes the audio signals of the television program and extracts the speech portion from the audio signals. (See paragraph 27, lines 1-4). Lange does not disclose or suggest either filtering or the use of the spectral subtraction filtering method as stated above.

Because Lange et al. do not disclose or suggest this limitation of claims 1 and 16, claims 1 and 16 are not subject to rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) in view of Lange et al. Claims 2 and 4 depend from claim 1 and claims 17 and 19 depend from claim 16. Accordingly, these claims are not subject to rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) in view of Lange et al.

Claims 3 and 18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious in view of Lange et al. and Ortega et al. This ground for rejection is overcome by the amendments to claims 1 and 16, described above. In particular, neither Lange et al., Ortega et al., nor their combination disclose or suggest use of a spectral subtraction filtering method as stated above.

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Lange et al. is described above. The patent to Ortega et al., concerns a transcription system for multiple speakers, which establishes the identification of the speaker and translates his or her speech. Ortega et al. disclose a method wherein the step of parsing the speech portion into discrete speech components includes the step of employing a speaker independent model to provide individual words as the parsed speech components. (See col. 4, lines 35-48). Ortega et al. do not filter the audio signal nor do they disclose using a spectral subtraction filtering method as stated above.

Because neither Lange et al. nor Ortega et al. disclose this limitation of claims 1 and 16, claims 1 and 16 are not subject to rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) in view of Lange et al. and Ortega et al. Claims 3 and 18 depend from claims 1 and 16, respectively and are not subject to rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) in view of Lange et al. and Ortega et al., for at least the same reasons as claims 1 and 16.

Claims 5, 11, 12, 14, and 20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious in view of Lange et al., and Ditzik. This ground for rejection is overcome by the amendments to claims 1, 11 and 16. In particular, neither Lange et al., Ditzik et al., nor their combination disclose or suggest the use of a spectral subtraction filtering method as stated above.

Lange et al. is described above. The patent to Ditzik et al., concerns integrated handwriting and speed recognition systems. Ditzik et al. disclose a method wherein the step of parsing the speech portion into discrete speech components includes the step of employing a speaker dependent model to provide phonemes as the parsed speech components. (See col. 3, lines 17-19 and col. 3, lines 52-59). Ditzik et al. do not filter the audio signal nor do they disclose using a spectral subtraction filtering method as stated above. Accordingly, claims 1, 11 and 16 are not subject to rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) in view of Lange et al. and Ditzik et al. and claims 5, 12, 14, and 20, which variously depend from claims 1, 11, and 16 are not subject to rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

Claim 13 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious in view of Lange et al., Ditzik et al. and Ortega et al. This ground for rejection is overcome by the amendment to claim 11. In particular, neither Lange et al., Ditzik et al., Ortega et al., nor their combination disclose or suggest the use of a spectral subtraction filtering method. Accordingly, claims 1, 11 and 16 are not subject to rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) in view of Lange et al.

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and Ditzik et al and claims 5, 12, 14, and 20, which variously depend from claims 1, 11, and 16 are not subject to rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

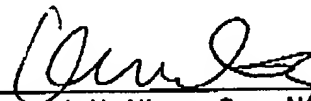
Applicants appreciate the indication in the Office Action that claims 6 and 15 would be allowable if amended to be independent and to include all of the limitations of their base claims and any intervening claims. Because, as described above, claims 1 and 5 and claims 11 and 14 are in condition for allowance, no amendment to claims 6 and 15 is needed.

Applicants also appreciate the indication in the Office Action that claims 7-10 are allowed.

The prior art made of record but not applied has been considered but does not affect the patentability of the invention.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the objections to claims 1, 6 and 15 and the rejection of claims 1-5, 11-14 and 16-20.

Respectfully submitted,


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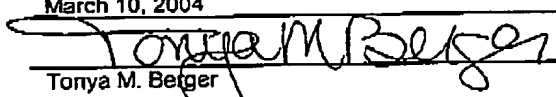
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